CLAIMS:

1. A system, comprising:

a ride vehicle of an amusement park ride;

a restraint system coupled to the ride vehicle and comprising a lock having a detector configured to receive a wireless signal, wherein receiving the wireless signal causes the lock to lock to a restrained configuration or unlock to an unrestrained configuration, and wherein the restraint system is configured to secure a rider within the ride vehicle;

a sensor that determines whether the restrained system of each ride seat is in the restrained or unrestrained configuration; and

one or more sensors configured to detect whether a seat of the ride vehicle is occupied;

wherein the system is configured to block release of the ride vehicle until the restraint system is in the restrained configuration unless it is determined that the seat is not occupied.

2. The system of claim 1, comprising:

a lock control point comprising a first transmitter configured to transmit the wireless signal to cause the lock of the restraint system to lock, wherein the lock control point is located at a load zone for the ride vehicle; and

an unlock point comprising a second transmitter configured to transmit a second wireless signal to unlock the restraint system.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the first transmitter and the second transmitter are radio frequency (RF) chips configured to transmit the wireless signal, and wherein the detector is a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the restraint system comprises a five-point harness having a plurality of straps each having at least one end fixedly attached to a ride seat of the ride vehicle, wherein at least one strap of the plurality of straps comprises a connector and at least one other strap of the plurality of straps comprises the lock on a free end, wherein the connector is configured to be removably coupled to the lock to secure the rider within the ride vehicle when the lock is in a locked configuration.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the restraint system comprises a first strap comprising a first connector; a second strap comprising a second connector; a third strap comprising a lock configured to removably couple to the first connector and the second connector; and wherein the first connector and the second connector are at least partially retained within the lock in the locked configuration and are removable from the lock in the unlocked configuration.

6. The system of claim 1, comprising a transmitter configured to transmit the wireless signal to cause the lock of the restraint system to transition between the locked configuration and the unlocked configuration, wherein the transmitter is a radio frequency (RF) chip configured to transmit the wireless signal, and wherein the detector is a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the first strap and the second strap each comprise a first end and a second end attached to a ride seat of the ride vehicle such that a loop is formed between the first and second ends of each respective strap, and wherein the loop is configured to receive an arm of the rider.

8. The system of claim 1, where the ride vehicle is configured to receive power from an external or internal power source to power operations of the ride vehicle and wherein the lock is configured to maintain the locked configuration when not receiving power from the power source.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the detector is positioned within the lock and comprises an RFID tag.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the restraint system comprises a pivoting arm configured to rotate about an axis to move the pivoting arm between a restrained configuration and an unrestrained configuration, wherein the detector is disposed on the pivoting arm and comprises an RFID tag.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the restraint system comprises:

a restraining bar comprising a pivoting arm configured to move from a restrained configuration to an unrestrained configuration; and

wherein receiving the wireless signal causes the pivoting arm to lock or unlock, wherein the pivoting arm is capable of pivoting when unlocked to transition from the restrained configuration to the unrestrained configuration and wherein the pivoting arm is fixed in the restrained configuration when locked.

12. The system of claim 1, comprising a portable transmitter configured to transmit the wireless signal.

13. The system of claim 1, comprising one or more sensors configured to detect the rider within a seat of the ride vehicle.

14. The system of claim 13, comprising a control system configured to transmit the wireless signal to the detector in response to receiving a signal from the one or more sensors indicative of the rider occupying the seat of the ride vehicle.

15. A method of securing a rider inside a ride vehicle of an amusement park ride using a restraint system configured to secure the rider within the ride vehicle , the restraint system being coupled to the ride vehicle and comprising a lock having a detector configured to receive a wireless signal, the method comprising:

receiving the wireless signal causes the lock to lock to a restrained configuration or unlock to an unrestrained configuration,

determining using a sensor whether the restraint system of each ride seat is in the restrained or unrestrained configuration;

detecting using one or more sensors whether a seat of the ride vehicle is occupied;

blocking release of the ride vehicle until the restraint system is in the restrained configuration unless it is determined that the seat is not occupied.